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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

21171 7590 03/19/2008

STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

AKINTOLA, OLABODE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3691

DATE MAILED: 03/19/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/738,285

12/18/2000

Masaaki Nishikiori

1086.1128/JDH

2128

TITLE OF INVENTION: INFORMATION MEDIATING APPARATUS AND METHOD AND STORAGE MEDIUM STORING INFORMATION
MEDIATING PROGRAM THEREIN

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$720	\$300	\$0	\$1020	06/19/2008

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

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STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/738,285 12/18/2000 Masaaki Nishikiori 1086.1128/JDH 2128

TITLE OF INVENTION: INFORMATION MEDIATING APPARATUS AND METHOD AND STORAGE MEDIUM STORING INFORMATION
MEDIATING PROGRAM THEREIN

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
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nonprovisional YES \$720 \$300 \$0 \$1020 06/19/2008

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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AKINTOLA, OLABODE 3691 705-037000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/738,285	12/18/2000	Masaaki Nishikiori	1086.1128/JDH	2128
21171	7590	03/19/2008	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			AKINTOLA, OLABODE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3691	
DATE MAILED: 03/19/2008				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 1026 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 1026 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/738,285

Examiner

OLABODE AKINTOLA

Applicant(s)

NISHIKIORI ET AL.

Art Unit

3691

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to he communication filed on 3/23/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8, 10-16 and 18-22.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Sheetal Patel on 2/21/08.

Claim

1. (Currently amended) An information mediating apparatus for providing mediation services for a user, comprising:

a mediating condition storing unit in which mediating condition list data describing specific mediating conditions necessary for mediation has been stored; and

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a mediation service processing unit which reads out the mediating condition list data designated in correspondence to a user request from said mediating condition storing unit, obtains information selected from another information storing unit on the basis of one item selected from a plurality of items described in specific conditions for the specific conditions having unfixed contents in the read-out mediating condition list data by merging the specific conditions, with said mediating conditions, generates mediation result information which satisfies said mediating condition list data including the specific conditions having the thus fixed contents ~~and presents said information to the user~~ ; and a displaying unit that displays to the user said mediation result information that includes a list of items to be acquired by the user,

wherein, in the case where a calculating instruction exists in the read-out mediating condition list data, said mediation service processing unit executes a predetermined calculating expression of the basis of other mediating conditions and merges a result of said calculation.

13. (Currently amended) An information mediating method of providing mediation services for the user, comprising:

storing mediating condition list data describing specific mediating conditions necessary for mediation into a mediating condition storing unit;

reading out the mediating condition list data designated in correspondence to a user request from said mediating condition storing unit;

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for specific conditions having unfixed contents in the read-out mediating condition list data, obtaining information selected from another unit on the basis of one item selected from a plurality of items described in said specific conditions, and merging the same to fix the contents thereof;

generating mediation result information which satisfies said condition list data;

and

displaying said mediation result information includes a list of items to be acquired by the user,

wherein, in a case where a calculating instruction exists in the read-out mediating condition list data, a mediation service processing unit executes a predetermined calculating expression of the basis of other mediating conditions and merges a result of said calculation.

14. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium in which an information mediating program for providing mediation services for the user has been stored,

said information mediating program causing the computer to execute a process comprising:

storing mediating condition list data describing specific mediating conditions necessary for mediation into a mediating condition storing unit;

reading out the mediating condition list data designated in correspondence to a user request from said mediating condition storing unit;

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for specific conditions having unfixed contents in the read-out mediating condition list data, obtaining information selected from another unit on the basis of one item selected from a plurality of items described in said specific conditions and merging the same to fix the contents thereof;

generating mediation result information which satisfies said condition list data;

and

displaying said mediation result information that includes a list of items to be acquired by the user,

wherein, in a case where a calculating instruction exists in the read-out mediating condition list data, a mediation service processing unit executes a predetermined calculating expression of the basis of other mediating conditions and merges a result of said calculation.

15. (Currently amended) A method of providing intermediary services to a user, comprising:

storing in a computer a list of intermediary service information for each of the services the intermediary service information list comprising fixed service information and a variable information source;

receiving a service request from a user and identifying a service on the list;

obtaining variable service information from the variable information source for the service of the request identified on the list;

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merging the fixed service information and the variable service information to provide the intermediary service of the service request to the user responsive to the merged information; and

displaying the merge information that includes a list of items to be acquired to by the user.

wherein, in a case where a calculating instruction exists in a read-out mediating condition list data, a mediation service processing unit executes a predetermined calculating expression of the basis of other mediating conditions and merges a result of said calculation.

16. (Currently amended) A method of providing an information services to a user using a computer, comprising:

storing information in a computer comprising a list of services and information about each service comprising non-variable information and a location identifier of a variable information source that includes variable information specific to each of the services;

receiving a service request from a user including constraint information, analyzing the request, identifying a service on the list and determining additional information conditions from the constraints;

obtaining variable information from the variable information source for the service of the request identified on the list using the location identifier and the information conditions;

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performing information computation operations using the non-variable information, the variable information, the information conditions and the constraints to produce computed information;

combining the computed information, non-variable information and the variable information ~~and providing the extrapolated~~ to provide the computed information, non-variable information and the variable information to the user responsive to the request; and

displaying the computed information, non-variable information and the variable information to the user as a list of items to be acquired by the user,

wherein, in a case where a calculating instruction exists in a read-out mediating condition list data, a mediation service processing unit executes a predetermined calculating expression of the basis of other mediating conditions and merges a result of said calculation.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the list of items include at least one of real estate information, office furniture information, or office equipment information.

19. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein the list of items include at least one of real estate information, office furniture information, or office equipment information.

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20. (New) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 14, wherein the list of items include at least one of real estate information, office furniture information, or office equipment information.

21. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein the list of items include at least one of real estate information, office furniture information, or office equipment information.

22. (New) A method according to claim 16, wherein the list of items include at least one of real estate information, office furniture information, or office equipment information.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8, 10-16 and 18-22 are allowed.

Examiner's Statement of Reason for Allowance

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter.

The most relevant references are the *Boriga et al*, *the Corey et al* and *Fernandes* references.

Boriga et al reference discloses an information mediating apparatus for providing mediation services for a user, comprising: a mediating condition storing unit in which

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mediating condition list data describing specific mediating conditions necessary for mediation has been stored; and

a mediation service processing unit which reads out the mediating condition list data designated in correspondence to a user request from said mediating condition storing unit (col. 3, lines 50-60; col. 4, lines 15-55; col. 6, lines 15-67, col. 7, line 35 through col. 8, line 65 and col. 9, lines 15-65).

Corey et al discloses two different query search engines that effectively create two different storage units, and combines the query conditions into one set of results (col. 2, line 10 through col. 3, lines 35 and col. 6, lines 25-65)

Fernandes reference discloses a dialog system that can be infused into existing mediator-based architecture to act as a guide for determining the interpretation of a query that reflects the user's original intentions. Domain-specific knowledge is embedded within the mediator to explicitly model subtle semantic ambiguities within queries. Passive dialogue in the form of a user profile is utilized to take into account an individual's preferences and assumptions about what common domain-specific terms mean. Active dialogue in the form of questions posed to the user during query processing is utilized to guide the query processor in finding answers that accurately match the user's intent (Abstract).

The *Boriga et al*, *Corey et al* and *Fernandes* references fail to teach

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obtaining information selected from another information storing unit on the basis of one item selected from a plurality of items described in specific conditions for the specific conditions having unfixed contents in the read-out mediating condition list data by merging the specific conditions, with said mediating conditions, generates mediation result information which satisfies said mediating condition list data including the specific conditions having a thus fixed contents, and presents said information to the user, wherein, in the case where a calculating instruction exists in the read-out mediating condition list data, said mediation service processing unit executes a predetermined calculating expression of the basis of other mediating conditions and merges a result of said calculation.

Updated searches revealed no references that disclosed the claimed invention, nor were any further references identified which could be reasonable combined with *Boriga et al*, *Corey et al* and *Fernandes* references.

For this reason, claims 1, 13 and 14 are deemed to be allowable over prior art of record and claims 2-8, 10-12 and 18-20 are allowed by dependency.

The *Boriga et al*, *Corey et al* and *Fernandes* references fail to teach

obtaining variable service information from the variable information source for the service of the request identified on the list; and
merging the fixed service information and the variable service information and providing the intermediary service of the service request to the user responsive to the merged information.

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wherein, in a case where a calculating instruction exists in the read-out mediating condition list data, a mediation service processing unit executes a predetermined calculating expression of the basis of other mediating conditions and merges a result of said calculation.

Updated searches revealed no references that disclosed the claimed invention, nor were any further references identified which could be reasonable combined with *Boriga et al*, *Corey et al* and *Fernandes* references.

For this reason, claims 15 and 16 are deemed to be allowable over prior art of record and claims 21-22 are allowed by dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by the applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reason for Allowance”.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Olabode Akintola whose telephone number is 571-272-3629. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM -5:00PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on 571-272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

OA

/Hani M. Kazimi/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3691